

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-01 NSC-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 OIC-02
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /071 W
-----001432 292138Z /41

R 291756Z NOV 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7998
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5062

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNGA, EGEN, AORG, FR
SUBJ: UN RESTRUCTURING: U.S./FRENCH CONSULTATIONS

REF: A.PARIS 34398 (NOTAL), B. USUN 4920 (NOTAL)

1. MISSION IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT THE LECOMPT COMMENT IN
REFTEL A THAT USUN AND FRENCH MISSIONS "NOW APPEAR TO BE PUR-
SUING SEPARATE OBJECTIVES". BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, WE HAVE
MADE EVERY EFFORT TO ESTABLISH CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE
FRENCH MISSION AT BOTH THE AMBASSADORIAL AND WORKING LEVELS,
AND HAVE CONSULTED WITH THEM AT EVERY STEP IN THIS STILL
EVOLVING PROCESS. THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE IN
APPROACH THAT HAS PERSISTED THROUGHOUT--THE FRENCH BASICALLY
DO NOT WANT TO ESTABLISH A HIGH LEVEL POSITION IN THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL SECTORS WHICH COULD IN ANY WAY ENDANGER THE AUTH-
ORITY OF THE UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ESA (TRADITIONALLY
THE FRENCH POSITION); WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF SUC POSITION BOTH AS A PART OF THE
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RESTRUCTURING PACKAGE BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO MEET OUR
INTERESTS FOR IMPROVED LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION IN THIS
SECTOR. OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS HERE IN NEW YORK HAVE BEEN
TO FIND A FORMULA WHICH WOULD MEET THE FRENCH CONCERNS,
SERVE OUR INTERESTS, AND BE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE.

2. WITH REFERENCE TO THE TWO SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED BY
LECOMPT:

(A) WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ADVISED THE FRENCH THAT WE DO NOT ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE TITLE OF THE POSITION; RATHER OUR CONCERN IS WITH THE MANDATE. INTERESTINGLY, SYG WALDHEIM HIMSELF ECHOED THESE SENTIMENTS AS REPORTED REFTEL B. THE FRENCH HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN A HARD STAND THAT THE POSITION SHOULD BE DESIGNATED "SPECIAL ASSISTANT" TO THE SYG AND THAT IT BE CLEARLY AT A LOWER LEVEL THAN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL. (EARLIER THEY HAD ASKED US TO CHANGE OUR NON-PAPER TO REFER TO A DIRECTOR GENERAL RATHER THAN DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL. WE HONESTLY DOUBT THAT SUCH A DESIGNATION WOULD PERMIT THE KIND OF SYSTEMWIDE COORDINATION WHICH WE ENVISAGE. THE FRENCH HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SELL THIS CONCEPT TO THE EC-9. AND THE G-77 HAVE ALREADY SERVED NOTICE THAT SUCH A DESIGNATION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. BE THAT AS IT MAY, WE HAVE NOT TAKEN ANY PUBLIC POSITION WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE FRENCH EFFORTS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OF SUCH A DESIGNATION.

(B) GIVEN THE NEGOTIATING HISTORY, WE DOUBT THAT ALL OF THE FUNCTIONS ENUMERATED IN SECTION VIII SUB-PARAGRAPH 3(F) OF THE DADZIE TEXT WILL BE ALLOCATED TO ESA. THESE FUNCTIONS REPRESENT A MIXTURE OF OPERATIONAL AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES. IN OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRENCH, WE HAD SOUGHT A FORMULA WHICH WOULD MAINTAIN A LINK BETWEEN THE ESSENTIALLY RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF ESA, AND THE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF OTC AND, IN PARTICULAR, LEAVE STATISTICAL
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SERVICES IN ESA. THE ONLY WAY WE SEE OF GETTING AROUND THIS IMPASSE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS TO PERMIT THE SYG TO MAKE THE FINAL DECISION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THESE FUNCTIONS BETWEEN ESA AND OTC. EARLIER, THE EC-9 INDICATED THAT THEY COULD ACCEPT THIS APPROACH IF THE G-77 WOULD. THE ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICLY DISCUSSED RECENTLY AND WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THE VARIOUS PARTIES STAND NOW.

3. IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH LECOMPT AND OTHER QUAI OFFICIALS, USUN SUGGESTS THAT YOU MIGHT WISH TO MAKE THE POINT THAT WE HAVE MADE AND ARE CONTINUING TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET THE LEGITIMATE FRENCH CONCERNS AND THAT EVEN ON POINTS OF RELATIVE DISAGREEMENT WE HAVE TAKEN NO PUBLIC ACTION TO UNDERMINE FRENCH EFFORTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN05062
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770442-0599
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977116/aaaaaeyq.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9fd6641a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS 34398, 77 USUN NEW YORK 4920
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 592036
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN RESTRUCTURING: U.S./FRENCH CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: EGEN, AORG, FR, UNGA
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9fd6641a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009